



NIWR Fall Meeting 2024

Federal Update

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October 29, 2024

Agenda



- WRRRA Appropriations
- WRRRA Authorization
- FY2026 NIWR Request

WRRRA Funding

- FY23 Appropriations: \$15.5 million
- FY24 Appropriations: \$15.5 million
- FY25 Appropriations
 - President's Budget Request: \$0
 - NIWR Ask: \$18 million, and at least \$14,500,000 for 104b **80/20 split**
 - Strong Support in House and Senate

House Interior Appropriations:

The recommendation includes \$16,500,000 for this program. Within the funding provided, at least \$12,500,000 is for the 104b annual base grants. Consistent with the fiscal year 2024 enacted bill, the recommendation includes \$3,000,000 for ongoing PFAS research within the Water Resources Research Act Program. **75/25 split**

Senate Interior Appropriations:

The bill provides \$15,500,000 for the Water Resources Research Act.

FY2025 Appropriations Status

- Continuing Resolution (CR) through Dec. 20th
 - Agency programs funded at FY24 levels
- Election will influence the conclusion of FY25 budget cycle

President	House	Senate	Likelihood	Likelihood analysis
R	D	R	High ●●●●●	Presidential race is a toss up; Democrats have a chance to regain control of the House, but GOP will likely flip the Senate
D	D	R	High ●●●●●	Presidential race is a toss up; Democrats have a chance to regain control of the House, but GOP will likely flip the Senate
R	R	R	Medium ●●●●●	GOP has a chance to win control of Congress
D	R	R	Medium ●●●●●	GOP has a chance to win control of Congress, but it's less likely for Democrats to win the presidency and lose both chambers of Congress

Current WRRRA Authorization

In 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) included the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021 (S. 914), that also reauthorized the Water Resource Research Act (WRRRA)

- SEC. 50221. Reauthorizes the Water Resources Research Act of 1984
 - Grants to each institute to be matched on a basis of no less than 1 non-Federal dollar for every 1 Federal dollar.
 - Evaluation of each institute at least once every 5 years
 - \$15 million authorized for fiscal years 2022 through 2025

WRRRA Reauthorization

The background of the slide is a faded, light-colored image of the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C. The building's iconic dome and neoclassical architecture are clearly visible, though the image is semi-transparent to allow the text to be read.

- The outcome of the elections will influence our strategy
 - If Democrats control Congress, then a full reauthorization is more likely
 - If Republican control Congress, then may hold the line, or a simple date extension

WRRRA Congressional Sponsors

In the House, previous lead sponsors have been Reps. Rob Wittman (R-VA) [likely to win], Josh Harder (D-CA) [likely to win] and Melanie Stansbury (D-NM) [likely to win]. We will need to continue to develop relationships with committee members, given that rosters will change.

And in the Senate, Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) [retiring] and John Boozman (R-AR) have led that effort, with Ed Markey (D-MA) also signing on. Again, we will need to shore up the next Democrat to co-sponsor an authorization bill.

As a reminder, authorizing efforts are under jurisdiction of the House Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

FY2026 NIWR Funding Ask

- Pending approval of FY25 funding level between \$15-16 million, we suggest the following:

Water Resources Research Act— \$18,000,000 for the Water Resources Research Act program at USGS and directs that at least \$14,500,000 fund the 104b annual base grants and the remaining funds to support 104g national grants, including special research topics such as AIS and PFAS.

- We will finalize our Ask pending the outcome of the 2024 Elections

NIWR 2025 Annual Conference

- **Conference Registration opens soon**
- **Hotel Reservation is now open**
- **Dates:**

Monday, February 24th through Wednesday, February 26, 2025

To be held in person at Van Scoyoc Associates

800 Maine Ave SW, Penthouse

Washington, D.C.

Board Meeting to be held Sunday evening February 23th

NIWR FY2026 Advocacy Webinar

To be held on January 23, 2025 at 2pm eastern. TEAMS link will be distributed